

**TOP SECRET**

6 July 1954

Mr. Allen W. Dulles, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Thank you for your letter of 29 May dealing with our critical need for accurate data upon which to base estimates of Soviet guided missile capabilities, particularly in relation to mass destruction attacks upon the Continental United States. I agree that all methods of developing required information on this threat should be carefully examined.

USAR25X1 [ ] has long been considered a top priority intelligence target by the Air Force. For some time members of the Air Staff have been concerned with the value and feasibility of aerial reconnaissance operations against this objective.

One of our problems in the consideration of the reconnaissance is the locational accuracy of the reconnaissance objectives to insure that the photography will cover the desired installations. Another problem is whether such photography of the correct installations will provide the intelligence we require.

I understand that our respective staffs are working on the collection and analysis of more precise information on these and related problems in the hope of finding satisfactory solutions at the earliest possible date. It appears unlikely however that a September deadline for the conduct of a mission can be met to support the preparation by 5 October of the National Intelligence Estimate on Soviet Capabilities and Probable Programs in the Field of Guided Missiles.

Sincerely,

USAF review(s) completed.

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N. F. TWINING  
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

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25X1 Return to [ ] who wishes to bring to  
Gen Cabell's attention.

25X1 (This letter, in dup, was handcarried in to  
[ ] in Gen Cabell's absence, by Col.  
Berg, of AF Intell, on 7 July. Orig, Cy#1,  
was noted by AWD, then handed direct to Mr  
Amory, then to go direct to AD/SI - 7/8/54.)

*AD/SI advises this superseded  
by further thought in K-  
HQ USAF. CPC 7 Aug*